

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam***

For Further Information, Contact:

***Assistant U.S. Attorney Michelle P. Jennings (619) 557-5956, or
Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael G. Wheat (619) 557-5408***

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - October 5, 2006

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam today announced the unsealing of a two-count indictment, handed up by a federal grand jury sitting in San Diego on September 29, 2006, charging Michael Scott Johnson with the murder of nineteen-year-old Private First Class Suesette Bluing, a Camp Pendleton-based Marine.

The indictment alleges that on December 25, 1978, defendant Johnson, then also an active duty Marine assigned at Camp Pendleton, murdered Private First Class Bluing by stabbing her in her barracks room aboard Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, California. The indictment further alleges that Johnson murdered Private First Class Bluing with premeditation and malice aforethought and did so in his attempt to rape her.

Defendant Johnson was arraigned on the indictment earlier today before a United States Magistrate Judge in San Jose, California. Johnson entered a not guilty plea to the charges. A detention hearing is scheduled for October 11, 2006, in San Jose.

This indictment was the result of the investigation by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

DEFENDANT

Case Number: 06CR2133-WQH

Michael Scott Johnson

SUMMARY OF CHARGE

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1111 (Murder)

Maximum Penalties: Life in prison without parole and a \$250,000.00 fine.

AGENCY

Naval Criminal Investigative Service

An indictment is not evidence that the defendant committed the crime charged. The defendant is presumed innocent until the United States meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.